

Government of Iraq has repeatedly said it will not comply with UNSCR 688 of April 5, 1991. The Iraqi military routinely harasses residents of the north, and has attempted to "Arabize" the Kurdish, Turkomen, and Assyrian areas in the north. Iraq has not relented in its artillery attacks against civilian population centers in the south, or in its burning and draining operations in the southern marshes, which have forced thousands to flee to neighboring states.

The policies and actions of the Saddam Hussein regime continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, as well as to regional peace and security. The U.N. resolutions affirm that the Security Council be assured of Iraq's peaceful intentions in judging its compliance with sanctions. Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with these resolutions, the United States will continue to apply economic sanctions to deter it from threatening peace and stability in the region.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

IN SUPPORT OF HMO REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to support the patient bill of rights and reform of HMOs because I believe it will help create a better health care system in this country.

Today as well I rise to support another project supported so strongly by our First Lady Hillary Clinton, and that is to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Microcredit Summit, an international conference held here in Washington last year. The summit launched a campaign to provide 100 million of the world's poorest families with credit for self-employment and other businesses and financial services by the year 2005. This, in fact, was not a handout but a hand up. This House passed that Microcredit for Self-reliance Act last year to assist in that endeavor.

Microenterprises are very small, informally organized businesses, other than those that grow crops. Microenterprises often employ only one person, the owner-operator, but in some lower-income countries microenterprises employ a third or more of the labor force. The microenterprise program is targeted at the poor, seeking to help them increase their income and assets, raise their skills and productivity, increase their pride and self-esteem. It helps mostly women.

I am here to support this program and hope the Congress will continue to fund it and applaud the First Lady for her vision in helping the world improve their lives and conditions.

Microcredit is particularly important because more than ninety percent of microcredit loans

go to women, who are, along with children, hardest hit by poverty. The small loans enable women to open their own businesses and, ideally, increase their independence and status in male-dominated cultures.

The positive effects of the microenterprise program cannot be minimized. Access to microcredit helps to educate women. It raises their income level and, thus, that of their families. It has been well-documented that education women have fewer children, have more time between births, and therefore, have fewer health problems and have healthier children.

On this one-year anniversary of their convention, I commend the thousands of delegates who came together at the Microcredit Summit, dedicated to improving the lives of our world's poor. I applaud not only the significant work that has been done, but that that is yet to come. I join other Members of this body in encouraging expansion of the Microenterprise program, particularly throughout Africa. No segment of the world's unfortunately enormous, poverty-stricken population should be denied the incredible opportunities this program provides.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, which is H.R. 2183. I want to express my thanks to the Speaker and to the leadership of this body for the action they took before we went home at the end of the first session in which they promised that we would have a vote in this House of Representatives on this floor in March on campaign finance reform.

I think this is a significant step that takes this body with the American people to reforming our campaign finance system that has led to so many abuses during the last election cycle. So I am grateful for the leadership of this body and their commitment, although it does not answer all of the problems. There is still a division as to exactly what we need to offer, but we need to address soft money, and that is understood by the leadership, as well as those who are committed to reform in this body.

So as momentum grows in America for campaign finance reform, I am delighted that the momentum is also growing for the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. This last week we added 3 new cosponsors to this legislation. There are now 74 sponsors of the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. Republicans and Democrats alike from all areas of the political spectrum can support this legislation because it is bipartisan, because it avoids the extreme, and it moves to what we can agree upon in the area of campaign finance reform, and that is really the criteria for reform that might be able to pass this bipartisan body.

I was encouraged this last week that we had the support of 189 former Members of Congress for campaign finance reform legislation. They came out and indicated their support for the proposals of former Presidents Bush, Carter and Ford, expressing the need and hope for campaign finance reform legislation that includes a ban on soft money. This range of former Members of Congress goes from Howard Baker to Mark Hatfield to Alan Simpson, to Bob Michel on the Republican side, Rudy Boschwitz, Brock Adams, Mickey Edwards, to David Pryor on the Democrat side, George McGovern, Howell Heflin, Alan Cranston, and so on. And so former Members of this body who have been taken back from the fray of politics here in the Congress can step back and say, we need this reform and they support it wholeheartedly.

So momentum is building in America for reform, but it is also building in this body and the support for the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act is also growing.

What does this legislation do? First of all, it bans soft money to the national political parties, and this must be the linchpin of any significant reform legislation. This last week Charlie Trie was arrested. He submitted himself after the indictment was returned, and what happened? What are the allegations? They involve the chase, the inexplicable, inordinate, exaggerated chase of soft money during the last election cycle, and that is what led to the abuses that we saw, that was revealed so extensively in Senator THOMPSON's hearings. So this proposal bans soft money to the national political parties.

The second thing it does, it indexes contribution limits to the rate of inflation, and this is important. An individual's contribution does not lose value, but it gradually increases as inflation increases. So this is important to individuals to keep the value of their contribution.

The third thing it does is that it helps the political parties to raise the honest money, the hard dollars, the individual contributions, and we need to help the political parties whenever we accompany it by a ban on soft money to them.